

Listing of the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for making an inflatable laminated article, comprising the steps of:

(A) contacting a first flat film with a second flat film;

(B) heating selected portions of at least one the first and second flat films to a temperature above a fusion temperature of the first and second flat films, so that the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another to produce a laminated article having heat seal pattern which provides a plurality of inflatable chambers between the first flat film and the second flat film, including passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a heated roller having a raised surface; and

(C) rolling up or transporting the first and second flat films after they are heat sealed to one another, for subsequent inflation and sealing; and

wherein the first and second flat films are forwarded at a speed of at least 120 feet per minute while coming into contact with one another, and wherein the heating is carried out by contacting the first flat film with a heated raised surface roller having a release coating thereon.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the raised surface roller has a surface roughness of from 50 to 500 rms.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another under a combination of heat and pressure.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to Claim 3, wherein the pressure is produced by means for forming a nip area.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 4, wherein the first flat film is brought into contact with the raised surface roller and heated to the fusion temperature before passing through the nip area.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to Claim 4, wherein the means for forming a nip area is a contact roller in a nip relationship with the raised surface roller.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to Claim 6, wherein the contact roller has an elastic outer coating comprising rubber.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the release coating on the raised surface roller comprises a polymer.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The process according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 8, wherein the ~~polyinfused~~ release coating comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 11 (Original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the raised surface roller has edges of raised surfaces having a radius of curvature of from 1/256 inch to 3/8 inch.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, further comprising cooling the first and second flat films after heating the selected portions of the flat films, the cooling being carried out by a means for cooling.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 12, wherein the means for cooling comprises bringing the first flat film or the second flat film into contact with a cooling roller.

Claim 14 (Original): The process according to Claim 12, wherein the cooling roller has a Shore A hardness of from 40 to 100.

Claim 15 (Original): The process according to Claim 13, wherein the cooling roller has a release coating thereon.

Claim 16 (Original): The process according to Claim 15, wherein the release coating on the cooling roller comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein at least one member selected from the first flat film and the second flat film is provided from a rollstock.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 17, wherein any flat film provided from a rollstock is stress relaxed by being heated to a temperature above a Vicat softening point of but below a glass transition temperature before being brought into contact with another flat film.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the first flat film is provided from a first rollstock and the second flat film is provided from a second rollstock.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first flat film passes partially around the heated roller having the raised surface before the first flat film contacts the second flat film, with the first and second flat films together passing further around the heated roller having the raised surface.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first flat film and the second flat film are in contact with one another when first flat film contacts the heated roller having the raised surface.